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BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE ESTABLISHED

Formal administration of the Bear River (Utah) Migratory Bird Refuge by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, begins today (October 1), the effective date of the administrative regulations prescribed, by Acting Secretary of Agriculture R. W. Dunlap. The refuge boundaries were established by Executive Proclamation on September 26.

The Acting Secretary also designated about 40 per cent of the flooded area as public-shooting grounds, as provided for by Congress in the act of April 23, 1928, to establish the refuge. The remainder will be administered as an inviolate sanctuary.

The Governor of Utah, the State Fish and Game Commission, and a committee of sportsmen had been consulted in the drafting of the regulations and in the designation of hunting grounds.

Establishment of the refuge, a marsh area of 64,255 acres at the mouth of Bear River, on the north shore of Great Salt Lake, has been advocated by game officials, sportsmen, and other conservationists. It is one of the most important breeding, feeding, and concentration areas for ducks, geese, and shorebirds, in the West. Ducks banded by Biological Survey cooperators on these marshes have been recovered in 14 States in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain region and in Canada and Mexico.

To increase the usefulness of the refuge and to prevent losses from botulism, river-control works and feeder canals have been constructed under the supervision of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering. The massive outer and division dikes provide for the fresh-water flooding of approximately 28,000 acres, in five units. The superintendent of the refuge, George E. Mushbach, reports that natural duck foods have developed in these flooded areas at a surprisingly rapid rate.

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